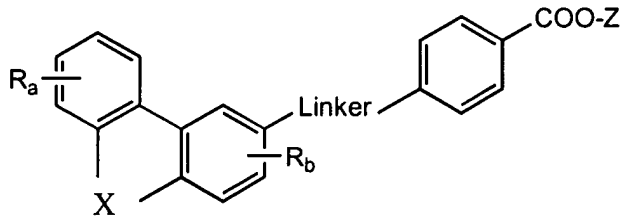
In the claims:

1. (Original) A compound represented by formula I



I

or a nontoxic pharmaceutically acceptable salt, physiologically hydrolyzable ester or solvate thereof, wherein

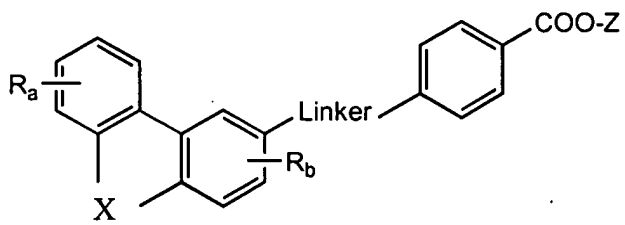
R_a and R_b are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, amino, substituted amino, mercapto, polyfluoroalkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, formyl, carboxyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

Linker is selected from the group consisting of C_2 alkyl, C_2 alkenyl, C_2 alkynyl, --C(=O)-NH--, --NH-C(=O)--, --CH_2O--, --O-C(=O)--, --C(=S)--NH--, --C(=O)-O--, --C(=O)-S--, --S-C(=O)--, --S-CH_2--, --CH_2-NH--, --C(=O)-CH_2--, --NH-C(=S)--, --CH_2S--, --OCH_2 --, --$NHCH_2$;

X is O, S, -$C(R_1)_2$, C=O, –$C(R_1)_2$Y-- or --$YC(R_1)_2$--, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of O, S and $C(R_2)_2$, wherein R_1 and R_2 are, independently, hydrogen or methyl; and

Z is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

2. (Original) A compound represented by formula I



or a nontoxic pharmaceutically acceptable salt, physiologically hydrolyzable ester or solvate thereof, wherein

R_a and R_b are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, amino, mercapto, CF_3, C_{1-6} alkyl, halosubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, aminosubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, formyl, carboxyl, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-substituted amino, aryl or heteroaryl;

Linker is selected from the group consisting of --CH=CH--, --C≡C--, --C(=O)-NH--, --NH-C(=O)--, --CH_2O--, --O-C(=O)--, --C(=S)-NH--, --C(=O)-O--, --C(=O)-S--, --S-C(=O)--, --S-CH_2--, --CH_2-CH_2--,-CH_2-NH--, --C(=O)-CH_2--,--NH-C(=S)--, --CH_2S--, --OCH_2 --, --NHCH_2 or --CRc=CRd--, wherein Rc and Rd are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

X is O, S, -$C(R_1)_2$, C=O, –$C(R_1)_2$Y-- or --Y$C(R_1)_2$--, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of O, S and $C(R_2)_2$, and R_1 and R_2 are, independently, hydrogen or methyl ; and

Z is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 2 wherein X is --$C(R_1)_2$Y-- or --Y$C(R_1)_2$--, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of O, S and $C(R_2)_2$ and R_1 and R_2 are, independently, hydrogen or methyl.

4. Cancelled

5. (Original) The compound of claim 3 wherein Linker is --CH=CH- or --C≡C--.

6. Cancelled

7. Cancelled

8. Cancelled

9. Cancelled

10. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

12. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

13. Cancelled

14. Cancelled

15. Cancelled

16. Cancelled

17. Cancelled

18. Cancelled

19. Cancelled

20. Cancelled